

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for identifying, from a plurality of files, at least one file suitable for attaching to a text message to be transmitted from an electronic device, the method being effected by the device and the method comprising:

identifying at least one keyword or phrase in the message to be used in a metadata search;

10 searching a least one database for files identified by metadata corresponding to at least one search word associated with the keyword or phrase; and

identifying the least one file suitable for attaching to the message, the at least one file having associated metadata matching the search word.

15

2. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying includes selecting nouns as the keyword.

20

3. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying includes selecting verbs as the keyword.

4. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the search word includes synonyms thereof.

25

5. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the search word exactly matches the metadata.

6. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the search word partially matches the metadata.

30

7. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein word stemming for the search word is used during the identifying the least one file.

5 8. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying the at least one file includes listing metadata associated therewith and metadata of other potentially suitable files.

9. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method also provides for selecting and attaching the at least one file to the message.

10 10. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method allows for transmitting the message with the at least one file attached thereto.

15 11. An electronic device comprising:
a communications unit;
a keypad; and
a processor operatively coupled to both the keypad and communications unit, wherein in use the processor performs:

20 identifying at least one keyword or phrase in the message to be used in a metadata search;

searching a least one database for files identified by metadata corresponding to at least one search word associated with the keyword or phrase; and

25 identifying the least one file suitable for attaching to the message, the at least one file having associated metadata matching the search word.

12. An electronic device, as claimed in claim 11, further including a display screen for listing metadata associated with the least one file suitable.

5 13. An electronic device, as claimed in claim 11, wherein the device provides for transmitting the message with the at least one file attached thereto, the transmitting being effected by the communications unit.

10 14. An electronic device, as claimed in claim 11, wherein the communications unit is a radio communications unit.